

## Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /063 W

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R 290800Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7214

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG

COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 0790

CINCLANT AND CINCUSNAVEUR FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PINT, US, MA, FR

SUBJECT: RATSIRAKA'S POSITION IN MALAGASY POWER STRUCTURE

REF: A. TANANARIVE 0728; B. TANANARIVE 0776 (BOTH NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION CONVEYED TO ME BY FRENCH AMBASSADOR ROGER ON APRIL 25, COMMANDER DIDIER RATSIRAKA OPPOSED CURRENT TRIP OF MALAGASY FONMIN ZAKARIASY TO FRANCE, BUT LOST WHEN ISSUE CAME TO VOTE IN RULING MALAGASY MILITARY DIRECTORY. RATSIRAKA'S OPPOSITION PRESUMABLY DERIVED FROM FACT THAT ZAKARIASY CALL ON FRENCH FONMIN SAUVAGNARGUES AND CONVOCAATION TO MEETING IN PARIS OF MALAGASY AMBASSADORS IN EUROPE AND WESTERN HEMISPHERE TEND UNDERMINE RATSIRAKA'S EFFORTS PORTRAY HIMSELF AS CHIEF MALAGASY OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR FOREIGN POLICY.

2. ROGER ALSO TOLD ME RATSIRAKA SUMMONED HIM ON APRIL 16 FOR SECOND MEETING SINCE ROGER'S ARRIVAL IN FEB, APPARENTLY TO FURTHER CAMPAIGN DESIGNED SHOW HE IS IN CHARGE OF FOREIGN CONFIDENTIAL

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POLICY. (ROGER COMMENTED THAT RATSIRAKA NOW HAS OFFICE IN BUILDING HOUSING MILITARY DIRECTORY, AND APPEARED MORE RELAXED THAN DURING FIRST VISIT.) MAIN THRUST OF MEETING, ACCORDING ROGER, WAS FOR RATSIRAKA TO INFORM HIM THAT

ZAKARIASY WOULD LATER RAISE WITH HIM THREAT OF STRIKE BY FRENCH TEACHERS IN MADAGASCAR, AND EXPRESS DESIRE IT NOT TAKE PLACE. HOWEVER, ROGER TOLD ME THAT, WHEN HE SAW ZAKARIASY LATER SAME DAY, ZAKARIASY RAISED MAINLY "MILITARY DIRECTORY'S" DECISION ABOUT HIS VISIT TO PARIS AND HIS DESIRE CALL ON FRENCH FONMIN (SUBJECTS NOT MENTIONED BY RATSIRAKA), AND REFERRED ONLY IN PASSING TO POTENTIAL FRENCH TEACHER STRIKE. ZAKARIASY THUS DID NOT CONVEY IMPRESSION HE TAKING ORDERS FROM RATSIRAKA.

3. COMMENTS: ABOVE INFORMATION, PLUS GENERAL ANDRIAMAHAZO'S REMARK TO ME THAT RATSIRAKA IN "HOT WATER" WITHIN MILITARY DIRECTORY OVER EXTREMIST WORDING OF MESSAGES SENT TO VIET CONG AND SIHANOUK (REFTEL B), SEEM INDICATE THAT RATSIRAKA IS NOT IN ASCENDANT POSITION WITHIN DIRECTORY, EVEN ON MATTERS OF FOREIGN POLICY - AT LEAST NOT ON CONSISTENT BASIS. THUS, IT IS STILL OPEN TO US TO TRY INFLUENCE DIRECTORY ON MATTERS OF U.S. INTEREST AS THEY ARISE.  
MENDENHALL

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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CINCLANT NORFOLK VA  
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